Statement

Detail of action to curb crimes against women and proposals for their empowerment

Law and order and other criminal matters is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initited a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:—

- Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family including any unlawful demand for dowry.
- setting up of help lines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme.
- support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services provided.
- A scheme has been formulated on 13.11.2007 to change the mindset of the society towards the girl child and view her as an asset and not a burden namely, Conditional Cash Transfer with Insurance Cover Scheme" The scheme provides for cash transfers to family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain conditionalities such as birth and registration of the girl child immunization, enrollment to school; retention in school, delaying the marriage age beyond 18 18 years. Insurance cover is also proposed for the girl child as a safety net and to enable the girl to receive a lump sum at the age of 18 years.
- launching of a comprehensive scheme under the name "Ujjawala" on 4.12.2007 for victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The scheme has five components Prevention, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-integration and Repatriation.
- redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women.

  organizing legal literacy and legal Awareness Camps.
- implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti Project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban Programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP).
- review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women.

  sensitization of Judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues.
- follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from varous sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women.
- vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence.
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations.
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence.
- provide counseling to victims of rape.
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters.
- ensure wider recruitment of women police officers.
- train police personnel in special lawas dealing with atrocities against women.
- setting up of Fast Track Courts.
- seting up of Family Courts.
- appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Ujjawala scheme

1071. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme Ujjawala is being implemented in Goa;

(b) if so, the names of implementing agencies to whom financial assistance has been given since commencement of the scheme, implementing agency-wise;

(c) the details of achievements made by these agencies during the period; and

(d) the details of deficiencies, if any, in implementing or in achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) No proposal under Ujjawala Scheme has been received from the State Government of Goa.

Inclusion of Orissa in lCDS

1072. MS.PRAMILA \BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has been excluded from the World Bank supported Integrated Child Development Services (1CDS) Programme and the Orissa Government has written to the Centre for inclusion of the State as well in this project.

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government is also aware that the State has taken a big initiative in the matter and is committed to the development of child and women; and

(d)if so, the status of the above proposal to include the State in the above World Bank Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Eight States *viz,* Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have been selected for implementation of the proposed World Bank assisted ICDS-IV Project on the basis of a study ***viz.*** 'Mapping and Profile' of "Target" Districts-India ICDS Programme' and best practices experience of the State. The request received from the Government of Orissa for inclusion in the proposed Project was considered in the Ministry. However, it was not found possible to accede to the same. A suitable reply was accordingly sent to the State Government on 1st February, 2008.

Amendment of Anti-Dowry Act

1073. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government proposes to amend the Anti-dowry Act, so as to make it harsher;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government is aware that the provision of this Act are being blatantly abused, as per several judgement of the various courts in this regard; and

(d)if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National Commission for Women (NCW) which is mandated by lawamong other things, to review Constitutional and other legal provisions affecting women and to suggest amendment thereof, has recommended some amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and section 304B IPC (Dowry death). The recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b)The main points of the recommendation made by NCW are shown in the enclosed statement. *(See* below).

(c)Government has no information that there is any large-scale misuse of the concerned laws. As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs for the years 2004 to 2006, the number of cases registered and the number of cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law was 21431 &974,179568& 19013and 11300 & 615 under section 304B IPC (dowry death), section 498 A IPC (cruelty by husband or relative of husband) and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, respectively.

(d)It is for the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the States to deal with any false complaint relating to dowry.